

Louisiana Archives and Manuscripts Association Newsletter

Spring/Summer
2004

LAMA News

LAMA Board Meeting

Louisiana Archivists and Manuscripts Association
Minutes of the Board Meeting
February 27, 2004
Hill Memorial Library
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, LA

Present:

Tara Laver, Kathie Bordelon, Ann Middleton, Dale Sauter, Cliff Theriot, Rob Sherer, Melanie Counce, Mark Martin, Irene Wainwright

President Tara Laver called the meeting to order and welcomed new board members Cliff Theriot and Melanie Counce.

The minutes of the last board meeting (May 24, 2003) were approved as written.

President's Report:

1. 2003 Annual Meeting
Tara reported that 60 people attended the 2003 Annual Meeting, held at Hill Memorial Library, LSU, on December 5, 2003. The meeting netted a profit of \$300.00.
2. 2004 Southern Archivists Conference

The 2004 Southern Archivists Conference will be held at the Mississippi State Archives in Jackson. Brochures announcing the meeting have been mailed. Louisiana is responsible for finances for this meeting. Each state organization is required to put up \$500 seed money, with the

expectation that, assuming the meeting is successful, the money will be returned, along with an additional share in the meeting's profits. (The last SAC lost money, and LAMA received only \$20 of the \$500 seed money. The Jackson meeting should be cheaper to put on, however, and we do not anticipate losing money.)

3. LAMA mailing list provided to A*Census

The LAMA mailing list was provided to SAA's A*Census effort – an IMLS funded project to gather information on archivists nation-wide. The A*Census agreement stipulates that the mailing list will be used only for the census project.

Vice-President's Report:

Vice-President Kathie Bordelon called attention to the vague wording in the by-laws regarding the LAMA scholarship. The bylaws establish no set amount for the scholarship, how many scholarships will be awarded each year, or the deadline for applying. Discussion followed and a motion was ultimately made to establish a maximum amount of \$300 for the scholarship and a deadline each year of March 10 for applications, the decision to be made by March 30, with an announcement sent to the membership seeking applicants by February 10. The motion was

seconded and passed. An exception to this deadline will be made this year.

Kathie will send a mailing to the membership by March 10, announcing a deadline for applications (in 2004 only) of April 10. The scholarship committee (Kathie, Cliff Theriot and Dale Sauter) will make its decision on the winner(s) by April 30. The by-laws will remain as written.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Mark Martin presented his report (see attached). It was noted that the \$93.45 listed as "Mailing & Printed Expenses" for the SAC Conference should be added back into the balance since this fee is covered in the \$500 seed money LAMA has already paid to SAC. The report was accepted as amended.

Secretary's Report:

Secretary Irene Wainwright passed out a print-out showing dues payments from 2001-2004. Discussion followed of various ways to increase membership and prompt members to stay current with their dues. A motion was made that we should send a membership notice to those members who have not paid 2004 dues, with a message that indicates the year

(Continued on Page 2)

Inside this issue:

LAMA Volunteers Needed	2
Louisiana State Archives	3
A*CENSUS	4
Newly Acquired/Processed	5
Exhibits/Lectures/Events	6
Publications	7
News from Louisiana Archives	8
Membership Form	11

dues were last paid. Mark Martin agreed to handle the mailing, which should go out by the end of March. We also agreed that future dues notices, including the membership forms online and in newsletters, should be clearly dated to avoid confusion. The dues notices will carry the Treasurer's address, though Irene will continue to check the P.O. box for any dues that are mailed there.

New Business:

1. LAMA Directory

The Board discussed whether or not the organization should update the *LAMA Directory*, originally compiled by Kathie Bordelon and Bruce Turner and put online in 1998. We agreed that the Directory should be revised by volunteer members who agreed to update entries from various sections of the state (Ann Middleton – Northwestern La.; Kathie Bordelon – Imperial Calcasieu; Irene Wainwright – Greater New Orleans and the North Shore parishes; Cliff Theriot – Southeast La.; Dale Sauter – Northeast La.). Additional volunteers may be needed. We also discussed the possibility of changing the name of the Directory to something more direct and descriptive of its purpose.

2. LAMA Listserv

Newsletter editor Ann Wakefield asked that the Board consider whether LAMA would be interested in setting up a listserv for members as a forum for the discussion of archival matters. After discussion, the Board rejected the idea.

3. A motion was made that chairing the Scholarship Committee and the Nominating Committee should be formally added to the duties of the Vice-President outlined in Article VI, Section B. of the bylaws. The motion was seconded and passed.

4. 2004 Annual meeting

It was agreed that the 2004 annual meeting will be held in Lake Charles, dates to be determined later. The President will appoint a committee to plan the meeting.

5. 2006 Southern Archives Conference

In 2006 SAC will be held in Louisiana. LAMA will be responsible for local arrangements. The Board discussed Lafayette or Natchitoches as possible locations for the meeting. Tara will report these possibilities at the SAC business meeting in Jackson.

6. Title 44

All state agencies in Louisiana have been ordered to develop records retention schedules and records management programs. In a number of state universities, responsibility for bringing the university into compliance with the records management statutes has been assigned to the archivists. The board discussed whether LAMA could offer assistance to archivists who have suddenly found themselves expected to be records managers. Melanie Counce agreed to discuss the matter with Carrie Fager, the Records Manager at the State Archives, and ask for her recommendations or assistance. Rob Sherer suggested that LAMA might draft a resolution designed to point out the differences between archival practice and records management. It was also suggested that LAMA might contact local ARMA chapters for advice and

possible assistance. Tara will work with Melanie on this issue.

7. LAMA website URL

Irene suggested that we look into the possibility of registering a new domain name for the LAMA website rather than continue to use the unwieldy nutrias.org/lama/lama.htm. Irene will look into the availability of names and the cost of registering the name.

Old Business:

1. Membership brochure

Tara investigated the cost of printing an informational brochure about LAMA. The cost would be approximately \$230 for 250 copies or \$300 for 1000 copies. The board voiced its support of developing the brochure and Tara agreed to design it.

The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted:

Irene Wainwright, LAMA Secretary

New Board Members

The LAMA board welcomed two new members at its recent meeting. Melanie Counce, Archives Specialist at the Louisiana State Archives, and Cliff Theriot, Archivist, Ellender Memorial Library, Nicholls State University, were appointed by the board for one year to fulfill the unexpired terms of former board members Kathie Bordelon and Mark E. Martin. Last year, Kathie and Mark were elected to VP/President-elect and treasurer, respectively, necessitating the appointments.

Volunteers Needed

At its February 20th meeting, the board of LAMA decided the directory of Louisiana archival repositories currently on the website should be updated. Volunteers are needed to cover the areas of the state that have not been assigned. These regions are northern/northeast Louisiana (responsible for the parishes of Union, Lincoln, Jackson, Ouachita, Morehouse, Richland, East Carroll, West Carroll) and east central Louisiana (comprised of Madison, Tensas, Concordia, Franklin, Caldwell, LaSalle, Catahoula, Avoyelles).

Other areas already assigned and to whom include the following: Acadiana (Bruce Turner, UL-Lafayette) — Evangeline, St. Landry, Acadia, Lafayette, St. Martin, Vermilion, Iberia; Imperial Calcasieu (Kathie Bordelon, McNeese) — Calcasieu, Cameron, Jefferson Davis, Allen, Beauregard; Central (Dale Sauter, Northwestern) — Sabine, Natchitoches, Winn, Grant, Rapides, Vernon; Southeast (Cliff Theriot, Nicholls) — Lafourche, Terrebonne, Assumption, St. Charles, St. James, St. John the Baptist, St. Mary; Greater New Orleans (Irene Wainwright, New Orleans Public Library and Susan Tucker, Newcomb Center for Research on Women) — Orleans, Jefferson, St. Bernard, Plaquemines, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Washington; Northwest (Ann Middleton, Bossier Parish Library Historical Center) — Caddo, DeSoto, Red River, Bossier, Webster, Claiborne, Bienville;

(Continued on Page 3)

LAMA News (Continued from Page 2)

Mark Martin, LSU-Baton Rouge, and Melanie Counce, Louisiana State Archives) —Pointe Coupee, Iberville, Ascension, East BR, West BR, W. Feliciana, E. Feliciana, Livingston, St. Helena.

Those working on the project will review the current listings from their area and update the information using websites, personal contact, phone directories, and other appropriate sources. Irene Wainwright has volunteered to enter the new information into a database, which will make updating and organizing the site much easier. The directory is currently arranged by city, but the new one will be organized by parish.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Tara Laver at tzachar@lsu.edu. Additionally, you can help by visiting the directory at <http://nutrias.org/lama/guide/guide.htm>. If you know of a repository that is not represented, please let the

appropriate LAMA member know.

Correction

The LAMA Board recently discovered an error of long-standing in the bylaws regarding membership and dues. Article III.B.4 of the bylaws (the section dealing with “Organizational” membership) reads, in error, “Additional staff members of the same organization may be entitled to one (1) vote each upon paying an additional five (\$5.00) dollars annual dues.” It should have read “Additional staff members of the same organization may be entitled to one (1) vote each upon paying an additional ten (\$10.00) dollars annual dues.” The membership form online, as well as membership forms that have been published in recent newsletters, reflected this error. The bylaws and the membership forms have been corrected. Our apologies for the mistake.

Louisiana State Archives

Researchers

Secretary of State Fox McKeithen is proud to announce that in the past few months, in addition to the many Louisiana patrons visiting Louisiana State Archives, the Archives staff have welcomed visitors and researchers from the states of Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, and Washington, as well as from Canada, Belgium, and France.

Physical plant and grounds renovation

The highlight of the past year at Archives was the major renovation of the physical plant and the grounds. This project which is in its final stages included the erection of new archival shelving, replacement of the facility’s HVAC system, construction of new offices, replacement of flooring and carpeting, landscaping of the building’s courtyard, exterior landscaping, and various interior improvements. The courtyard was dedicated during a beautiful evening reception by Secretary McKeithen this past October in honor of Barbara “Tita” Sevier Womack. Visitors to State Archives will notice that major construction in front of the building is on-going. This project includes the erection of a security wall around part of the State Archives, additional landscaping of the facility’s front property, construction of a new access road serving homes and businesses adjacent to the State Archives, the reconfiguration of Archives Boulevard, and the construction of a new on-ramp connecting Essen Lane with Interstate 12 eastbound. A tentative detour to the Archives flows through United Plaza Boulevard. This project, funded by the state, is scheduled to be completed later this year.

Rebel Archives Collection

State Archives staff are currently cataloguing the remainder of

its “Rebel Archives Collection.” These are the official records of Louisiana’s Confederate government from 1861-1865. Plans call for the publishing of an index and inventory of this voluminous collection for easy access by researchers. Plans are being made for these materials to be available to researchers in late spring or early summer.

Governor’s Office records

The Archives has been receiving materials from former Governor Mike Foster’s office. Many of the materials will be of interest to people researching coastal issues while other records illustrate the Governor’s use of internet technology while in office. More gubernatorial records are anticipated. Archives has also received records from the Louisiana Purchase Bicentennial Commission, political consultant and author Gus Weill, and former Secretary of State and Insurance Commissioner Jim Brown.

Conservation

The Conservation Lab has finished the recontainerization of 18th and 19th century colonial records from St. John the Baptist Parish. These materials deal principally with property transfers and are now available for research. The Lab is continuing the rehabilitation of 19th century Orleans Parish birth and death records, many of which are in exceptionally poor condition due to the low quality of the paper on which they were written.

Finding Aids

Thanks to the continuing efforts of the New Orleans Volunteer Association participating in the USGen Web Project, Archives staff have recently uploaded the Orleans Parish Death index from 1804-1909, Orleans Parish Birth index 1790-1901, and the Orleans Parish Marriages by Groom index 1831-1905 for ac-

(Continued on Page 4)

Louisiana State Archives (Continued from Page 3)

cess at the Archives Research Library or online at: <http://www.rootsweb.com/usgenweb/la/orleans.htm>. Additionally, Archives staff have created a new "Source Guide to Conducting African American Research at the Louisiana State Archives Research Library" brochure for our library patrons. This will be especially popular during February's celebration of Black History Month.

Multimedia Archives

The Research Library will soon celebrate the opening of the Secretary of State's Multimedia Archives, which will enable patrons to directly access video and audio relating to Louisiana politics and government. January/February's library exhibit case contains a collection of memorabilia dealing with the life and death of President John Fitzgerald Kennedy.

Louisiana Purchase Quilt

Secretary of State McKeithen proclaimed Tuesday, January 13,

2004, as Louisiana Purchase Quilt Day to commemorate the official Louisiana Purchase quilt, made by The Peaceful Quilters of Baton Rouge to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the Louisiana Purchase. The beautiful quilt was donated by the Governor's Tourism Development Commission and is prominently displayed in the Archives lobby.

An on-going exhibit in the Louisiana Room is the impressive Louisiana Purchase Exhibit, which focuses on each of the fifteen states that were a part of the Louisiana Territory. The educational exhibit highlights photographs of the state capitols, the state symbols and flags of each state, as well as their prominent citizens. This is a colorful, attractive and educational exhibit, well worth the trip. This and other interesting activities at Archives can be viewed on the Secretary of State web page at <http://www.sec.state.la.us/archives&Recordsmanagement/ArchivesNewsLine>.

Archivists Count

A*CENSUS working group breaks new ground

Submitted by Elizabeth H. Dow

School of Library and Information Science, LSU

The working group charged with developing and conducting a comprehensive nationwide census of the archival profession, A*CENSUS, began deliberations about the scope and nature of this unprecedented collaborative effort during its first meeting in Chicago, November 14-16. Funded by the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS), A*CENSUS (Archival Census and Education Needs Survey in the U.S.) seeks to define the universe of archivists currently in the workforce, determine the knowledge and skills they need to do their jobs now and in the future, and provide graduate and continuing education programs with baseline data to support recruitment and training of new archivists.

A broad range of archival interests are represented within the working group, including graduate archival education programs, continuing education programs, and the following national and regional organizations: Academy of Certified Archivists, Association of Moving Image Archivists, Conference of Inter-Mountain Archivists, Council of State Historical Records Coordinators, First Archivists Circle, Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference, Midwest Archives Conference, National Archives and Records Administration/Modern Archives Institute, National Association of Government Archives and Records Administrators, New England Archivists, Northwest Archivists, Inc., Rare Books and Manuscripts Section of the Association of College and Research Libraries, Society of American Archivists, Society of California Archivists, and Society of Southwest Archi-

vists.

The goal of A*CENSUS is to reach everyone in the United States who works with archival materials. The project will seek active participation from all archival associations in the U.S., as well as many organizations serving closely allied fields whose members bear significant responsibility for historical records, including librarians, local historians, records managers, and museum curators.

According to Tara Laver, "LAMA is delighted to participate in and fully supports this groundbreaking effort, which will help to shape the individual and collective interests of the archival community."

Current plans call for the census to occur during the spring of 2004, with preliminary reports available by the time of the Society of American Archivists annual meeting in Boston in August. For more information, contact Elizabeth H. Dow at edow1@lsu.edu or refer to <http://www.archivists.org>.

2004 Conference Calendar

SAC April 14-16, Jackson, MS
SSA May 27-29, San Antonio, TX
SAA Aug. 2-8, Boston, MA
ARMA Oct. 3-6, Long Beach, CA

Southern Archivists' Conference

SAC in Jackson, Mississippi

The Southern Archivists' Conference will be held at the recently dedicated William F. Winter Archives and History Building in Jackson, Mississippi, on April 14-16. Conference activities include pre-conference workshops, several topical sessions, an architectural tour of downtown, and a tour of the Archives building that was dedicated only last November.

The conference opens on Wednesday, April 14, with two pre-conference workshops, "Database Indices for Records" and "Archival Preservation and Access: How the Genealogical Society of Utah Can Benefit You." Thursday's sessions include "The Civil Rights in Mississippi Digital Archive," "Paper Finding Aids for EAD: Creating Paper Finding Aids That Will Convert Easily to EAD," "Publishing Local History," and "Documenting and Preserving the Deep South."

Thursday's dinner buffet features keynote speaker Kim Cumber of North Carolina State Library on "A Grassroots Approach to a State-wide Digitization Initiative."

Friday session is "Starting an Archives: Decisions, Decisions, Decisions ..."

The conference hotel is the Edison Walthall Hotel, located at 225 E. Capitol St., Jackson, Mississippi, within walking distance of the meeting room in the Archives building, and the Old Capitol Museum.

Membership in the Southern Archivists' Conference is a benefit of membership in Society of Alabama Archivists, Louisiana Archives and Manuscripts Association, Society of Mississippi Archivists, or Society of Tennessee Archivists.

Early-bird registration for SAC ended March 10. For information call Tara Laver at 225-578-6546.

Newly Acquired/Processed

LSU Special Collections

Notable recent acquisitions by LSU Special Collections include a group of Port Hudson cartes-de-visites, the John Langdon Ward magic lantern slides, and the Max Rosenbaum family letters and photographs.

Port Hudson cartes de visite, ca. 1864: eight (8) albumen photographs in the carte de visite format showing scenes of the last Confederate citadel on the Mississippi River. After surviving the longest siege of the war, Port Hudson's commanding officers surrendered as soon as word of the fall of Vicksburg reached them. The Union gained complete Union control of the Mississippi River with the fall of Port Hudson.

John Langdon Ward Magic Lantern Slides, ca. 1875: one hundred seven (107) glass lantern slides containing images of Port Hudson, La., Baton Rouge, La., officers and men of the Corps d'Afrique, and other views. These glass lantern slides were created using images originally taken in the aftermath of the fall of Port Hudson and its occupation by Union forces, 1864. In conjunction with the Port Hudson cartes de visite mentioned above and the Marshall Dunham Photograph Album, which contains images from battle sites in Louisiana, Alabama, and Florida, these glass lantern slides provide a valuable visual resource for one of the most important events in Civil War history.

The Baton Rouge home front during World War II is a pri-

mary focus of the Max Rosenbaum family letters and photographs. The collection is comprised of sixty-five letters (1944-1945) and thirty-one photographs, ca. 1898-1930. The letters from Max Rosenbaum to his son Bert, who was serving in Europe, detail the activities of family and friends, especially among the city's Jewish population, news of other Baton Rouge men in the war, and life in Baton Rouge during World War II. Photographs are primarily cabinet cards and mounted portraits of the Elgutter family, a prominent Baton Rouge Jewish family that immigrated from Germany to Newellton, Louisiana, near Natchez and then to Baton Rouge. Sylvia Elgutter married Max Rosenbaum, the author of the letters. Many of the studio portraits were taken at the Norman studio, mentioned above, and others are from Baton Rouge photographers. Included is a photograph of Bert Rosenbaum as a child. Finding aid is available at <http://www.lib.lsu.edu/special/findaid/index.html>.

Edwin Edwards and gambling are the topic of the Tyler Bridges Papers. Bridges, formerly a reporter for the New Orleans Times-Picayune, authored the 2001 book *Bad Bet on the Bayou: The Rise of Gambling in Louisiana and the Fall of Governor Edwin Edwards*. The collection is comprised of 10 linear feet of photocopies of newspaper clippings, hearing transcripts, legal filings, and correspondence, as well as oral history interviews, radio broadcasts, and video tapes of television coverage and stories related to Edwin Edwards and casinos.

Join Louisiana Archives and Manuscripts Association

Turn to Page 11 for details

Exhibits/Lectures/Events

New Orleans Public Library

The Louisiana Division's current exhibit is *Keeping Memories: The Louisiana Division's College Yearbook Collection*, featuring selections from college yearbooks around the state. The exhibit can be seen online at

<<http://nutrias.org/exhibits/yearbooks/keepingmemories.htm>>.

The Louisiana Division's semi-annual **Genealogy Class for Beginners** will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on May 15 in the Main Library auditorium, 219 Loyola Ave. Speakers will be Louisiana Division staff members Greg Osborn, Wayne Everard, and Collin Hamer (in his final beginner class appearance before his retirement this summer). The class is free and open to the public, but pre-registration is required to ensure seating; those interested in attending are asked to call the Louisiana Division at (504) 596-2610.

The Historic New Orleans Collection

Napoleon's Eyewitness: Pierre Clement Laussat and the Louisiana Purchase traces Laussat's activities in the transfer of the Louisiana from Spain to France and to the United States. The exhibit continued through March at The Collection, 533 Royal St., New Orleans.

A major exhibition presented by The Historic New Orleans Collection returns home after ten weeks at the Mona Bismarck Foundation in Paris. The exhibition, *From Louis XIV to Louis Armstrong: A Cultural Tapestry*, showcases more than 100 objects from The Collection. The exhibit will be installed in the Williams Gallery at 533 Royal St. and at the Williams Research Center, 410 Chartres St. It is free and open to the public, Tuesday through Saturday, except holidays, from April 13 through Oct. 9.

The Collection broke new ground with its first showing in Europe at the Mona Bismarck Foundation, an American organization in Paris that promotes projects linking France and the United States.

"The exhibit perfectly illustrates New Orleans as a melting pot of culture," said *Le Figaro*. *Where* magazine in Paris described the exhibition as very impressive and well attended, drawing more than 1,200 visitors a day during the final weeks.

Major themes highlighted in the exhibit include colonial history, the development of 19th-century New Orleans, the visual arts from 1870 to 1940, and jazz. Featured are collections of visual arts that trace the evolution of the Louisiana landscape movement. Two exceptionally large late 18th-century manuscript maps of the Mississippi River are on loan from the French Military Archives for the first time to an American institution. Additionally, an entire section of the exhibition is devoted to key figures in the development of jazz with sheet music and photographs of Louis Armstrong, Mahalia Jackson, Bunk Johnson, Jelly Roll Morton, and others.

The Historic New Orleans Collection is presenting a rare experience for the public with its program of *God's Music*:

Shall We Gather At The River? Composer Jay Weigel will both lecture on and demonstrate parts of his composition, *The River May Cry*, focusing on the river as a prevalent symbol in traditional spirituals. The free performance and lecture will be held at St. Louis Cathedral and will feature artists Phillip Manuel, Ellen Frohnmayer, Leah Chase, Reverend Lois Dejean and her gospel choir, and chamber musicians. Performances of gospel music; arrangements written for Mahalia Jackson, now in the Bill Russell Collection; and Jay Weigel's music will illustrate the lecture.

The event is the Fifth Annual Bill Russell Lecture and will be held at the St. Louis Cathedral on Friday, April 16. It begins at 7 p.m. and is free and open to the public. Lead sponsor is Statewide Bank. Other sponsors include St. Louis Cathedral, Ogden Museum of Southern Art, Contemporary Arts Center, and French Quarter Festival.

"We are proud to feature such an important program as a continuation of our ongoing Bill Russell lectures," said The Collection's Executive Director Priscilla Lawrence. "This is an opportunity for the general public to learn about gospel spirituals in the beautiful surroundings of St. Louis Cathedral."

Jay Weigel, director of the Contemporary Arts Center, creates compositions that integrate the music of New Orleans with the classical written tradition. *The River May Cry* was commissioned for the opening of the Ogden Museum of Southern Art in the summer of 2003.

Bill Russell was a musician and avid collector of material that chronicles the birth and growth of jazz in New Orleans. His collection, including the papers of Mahalia Jackson, is housed in the Williams Research Center of The Collection.

The French opera *Les Visitandines* created quite a stir when it played in New Orleans in 1805. The comic opera about the misadventures of two young boys in a Sisters of the Visitation convent had premiered in Paris in 1792. While post-revolutionary Parisians considered it a manifestation of their newly granted right to criticize the clergy, the opera caused considerable controversy in New Orleans.

Les Visitandines was revisited for contemporary fans at a **lecture by Dr. Susan V. Nicassio**. Dr. Nicassio discussed the plot, the irresistible melodies, and the reaction of Governor Claiborne and the Ursuline Nuns to the production.

Dr. Nicassio, associate professor of history at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and a widely published authority on Giacomo Puccini's *Tosca*, has explored early opera in New Orleans and recently staged François Devienne's *Les Visitandines* for the Consortium on Revolutionary Europe.

The Historic New Orleans Collection sponsored the event on March 4 at 533 Royal Street in the Counting House.

Artist George Louis Viavant (1872-1925) produced exquisite watercolors of the birds, fish, and small game that he knew so well from years spent hunting on his family's property just outside of New Orleans. Published by The Historic New Or-

(Continued on Page 7)

Exhibits (Continued from Page 6)

leans Collection and authored by George E. Jordan, George L. Viavant: Artist of the Hunt relates the story of a man whose realistic work won nation-wide acclaim. Jordan traces Viavant's life and presents an analysis of the artist's works while commenting about art in early twentieth century New Orleans. A book signing was held on March 30. *George L. Viavant: Artist of the Hunt* is available for sale at The Shop at The Collection and elsewhere.

The Glass Menagerie opened at the Civic Theatre in Chicago in December 1944. In celebration of the sixtieth anniversary of the opening, The Historic New Orleans Collection is mounting the exhibit: *Reflections on The Glass Menagerie*. Drawn from the Fred W. Todd Tennessee Williams Collection, the exhibition not only explores the production history of the play, but also examines the real events that inspired it and the effect that the play's tremendous success had on Williams's life.

Showcasing photographs, manuscripts, and ephemera, *Reflections on The Glass Menagerie* features a rather terse letter from Tennessee Williams to the producers of the 1950 film

version of the play. In the letter, he strongly criticizes them for not standing up to Hollywood censors when they cut portions of the dialogue.

Also on display is the diary of Edwina Dakin Williams, Tennessee's mother. His real life experiences, reflected in the diary, form the basis of the play. This small but important exhibition will run through June 30 at The Williams Research Center, 410 Chartres St.

The Williams Research Center presented an exhibition of historic maps from the cartographic holdings of The Historic New Orleans Collection. *Charting Louisiana: Cartographic Treasures at The Historic New Orleans Collection* featured 32 printed and manuscript maps, including Martin Waldseemüller's 1513 woodcut of the New World, that embody some of the early attempts to represent — and therefore control — the land and its principal waterways, particularly the Mississippi River. The river is a focal point of the exhibition, which concludes with maps depicting more recent efforts to promote navigation and to prevent or minimize seasonal flooding. The exhibition ended March 15.

Publications

LSU-Shreveport

LSU-Shreveport, Noel Memorial Library Archives has recently published "Photo By Grabill: A Legacy of Images," a photographic celebration of the work of two of Shreveport's most important and gifted photographers, father and son, Burch and William Grabill. Their photographic negatives and prints, encompassing more than eight decades, is an unsurpassed visual legacy of area social and cultural history. The Grabill Studio Collection, generously donated by the Grabill family, represents one of the largest and most important visual archives of Shreveport and the surrounding area.

Religious Pioneers

The publication of *Religious Pioneers: Building the Faith in the Archdiocese of New Orleans*, edited by Dorothy Dawes and Charles Nolan, was in preparation for seven years, and has now demonstrated that it was worth the waiting. It was released

January 25 at Loyola University's Center for the Study of Catholics in the South. Publication was supported by Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities, the Archdiocese of New Orleans, Greater New Orleans Archivists, and many friends. The book has been warmly greeted by the public of all religious persuasions. The thirty-one brief biographies are contributed by authors who include religious sisters, brothers, priests and lay folk, many of whom, like the editors, are archivist/historians. All the contributors are hoping for wider distribution, because the book's interest extends far beyond the local scene. Promotional resources are limited, so anything LAMA readers can do to help promote its distribution is greatly appreciated. Readers say the book is reader-friendly, and it is priced very inexpensively. Most who visit the website or see the book, want a copy or more. See <<http://www.religiouspioneers.org/>>. Dorothy Dawes can be reached at dmdawes@accesscom.net.

Online

Northwestern State University

Cammie G. Henry Research Center's Millspaugh photo collection is online on the LOUIS Digital Library page. The address is <<http://louisdl.louislibraries.org/MPA/Pages/home.html>>.

New Orleans Public Library

The following have been added to NUTRIAS, NOPL's Web

site <<http://nutrias.org/>>

- Surname listings for letters A, I, Q, X, Y and Z have been added to the online version of the Index to Orleans Parish Justice of the Peace Marriage Records (1846-1880)

<<http://nutrias.org/inv/jpmarrindex/jpmarrindex.htm>>. This

(Continued on Page 8)

Online (Continued from Page 7)

index is being transcribed by volunteers from NOVA, the New Orleans Volunteer Association.

- NOVA has also begun projects to transcribe the Record of Patients (1882-1884; 1888) admitted to the New Orleans City Insane Asylum <<http://nutrias.org/inv/cityinsaneasylum.htm>> and the Register of patients transported to the State Insane

Asylum (Orleans Parish Civil Sheriff), 1882-1918 <<http://nutrias.org/inv/civilsheriff/vf350.htm>>.

- A year-by-year listing of the Louisiana Division's Newspaper Holdings, 1787-1974 <<http://nutrias.org/info/louinfo/chronolist.htm>>.

News from Archives in Louisiana

LSU To Offer EAD Course through Distance Education

Starting in June, 2004, LSU's School of Library and Information Science will offer LIS7603, Electronic Description of Archival Materials (EDAM), through its compressed video distance education network throughout Louisiana. Taught by Elizabeth Dow, the course covers three ways to describe archival holdings electronically: MARC format for adding records to online catalogs, EAD for Web-publication of finding aids, and TEI for Web-publication of full-text documents. At the end of the class, each student will have created a Web-publishable finding aid and full-text document, each with a MARC record.

The LSU distance education network connects to sites in Alexandria, Eunice, Lake Charles, Lafayette, Monroe, New Orleans, and Shreveport. Although EDAM carries graduate credit, the class is open to anyone who has created archival inventories. Prospective students who do not want to enroll for a full degree program through the graduate school should look into enrolling as a non-degree student. For more information, look for information on the non-degree program on the graduate school's Web site:

<<http://appl003.lsu.edu/grad/gradschool.nsf/index>>.

In addition to the books needed for the course, students will access to a program called oXygen v.3.1, available at <<http://www.oxygenxml.com>>, which the class will use to create the electronic publications.

Before joining the faculty at LSU, Dow worked as a MARC cataloger in three repositories in Vermont. While at the University of Vermont, she initiated and managed both the university's EAD project and a TEI-based project which published more than 600 documents. As a result of her real-world experience, Dow focuses on real problems and solutions. For more information about the course, contact Elizabeth Dow at edow1@lsu.edu. Mention EDAM in the subject line.

NSU Creole Heritage Center

The Creole Family History Convention will be held May 20-23 in Las Vegas, Nevada. Tuscany Hotel & Casino is offering hotel suites at a convention rate of \$69. A pre-registration special offers conference registration at \$46 if received by May 9. Children under 12 will be admitted free of charge. On-site registration is \$55. Information about charter-bus transportation to Las

Vegas is available from Armay Metoyer Moore at 323-295-7145.

Events include:

May 20-21, presentations, workshops, and exhibits.

May 22: Creole Family Reunion Picnic and Festival; Awards Banquet and Zydeco Dance.

For more information, call the NSU Creole Heritage Center in Natchitoches, or go to <http://www.nsula.edu/creole>.

Creole Heritage Day in Houston

In January, the Houston Chapter of the St. Augustine Historical Society held "Creole Heritage Day in Houston. Featured were exhibits, speakers, demos, vendors, food and music. This was a first-time presentation for this area and plans are to make it an annual event. Food demos included cooking cracklin's, fried sweet potato, preparing a turtle from the time of catching to making turtle soup, and preparing roux. The NSU Creole Heritage Center personnel presented the National Family Index for review and submittals.

New Orleans Public Library

Archivist Wayne Everard was interviewed by *New Orleans CityLife* magazine (a new magazine by the publishers of *New Orleans City Business*) for an April 2004 article on occupations in New Orleans. Wayne also gave two presentations on January 7 on the historical loan records of the Lyceum Library (one of the predecessors of New Orleans Public Library) at the Gale Group's national sales meeting in New Orleans.

Collin Hamer and Wayne Everard appeared (and continue to appear) on "Books Alive," NOPL's informational program broadcast on GOV.TV, the New Orleans government access channel (New Orleans cable channel 6), speaking about materials housed in the City Archives.

NOPL's project to climate-control a portion of the Louisiana Division's archives and special collections storage area is on track to begin shortly. The project will require approximately six to nine months to complete. Researchers anticipating projects involving the use of original material from the City Archives or the Louisiana Division should contact the Library prior to their visit to ensure that the material they require will

(Continued on Page 9)

News from Archives in Louisiana (Continued from Page 8)

be available. Call the Louisiana Division at 504-596-2610 or contact one of the archivists by e-mail at weverard@gno.lib.la.us or iwainwri@gno.lib.la.us.

Le Comité des Archives

Le Comité des Archives de la Louisiane held its annual meeting on September 14, 2003. Officers elected for the year 2004 were: President Damon Veach; First Vice President Louis Altazan; Second Vice President Karen Wilkinson; Third Vice President Cherryl Forbes Montgomery; Secretary Jane Gardner Aprill; and Treasurer Judy Riffel. The society has recently published a new book, *Abstracts of St. John the Baptist Parish Civil Record, 1757-1798*, and has donated a set of the microfilm of these records to the Louisiana State Archives. The society's next book will be *Shreveport Civil Birth Records, 1875-1911*. It will also increase the frequency of its journal, *le Raconteur*,

from three to four times per year. Publication dates will be March, June, September, and December. Membership in this organization is \$15 per year if paid before March 1st, and \$18.50 after. Mail to Le Comité, P.O. Box 1547, Baton Rouge, LA 70821.

N.O. Notarial Archives Research Center

Trish Nugent, an archival assistant at N.O. Notarial Archives Research Center, will be a session panelist at the upcoming meeting of SSA in San Antonio, Texas, and was awarded the SSA scholarship for travel expenses.

The N.O. Notarial Archives Research Center recently installed two public-access computers, giving researchers access to finding aids and databases.

SSA in San Antonio: *Changing Times – Changing Formats*

Early bird deadline for **Society of Southwest Archivists 2004 meeting in San Antonio, Texas**, is April 30. Meeting dates are May 27-29. Conference site is La Mansión del Rio Hotel, centrally located on the River-Walk.

Thursday's Workshops:

- ◇ *Archives and Intellectual Properties in the Digital Age: An Examination of the Legal and Ethical Issues*
- ◇ *Preservation, Maintenance, and Management of Magnetic Media Collections*

Opening reception at the Witte Museum

Friday Sessions:

- ◇ Opening Plenary Session, Dr. David B. Gracy with Charles Schultz and Patricia Galloway, *Living in History: Or, Forty-five Years in the Archival Enterprise*
- ◇ *Changing Times: Changing Traditional Processing Practice*
- ◇ *Educational Outreach in the National Archives*
- ◇ *UT-School of Information students*
- ◇ *Digital Finding Aids and Records at the University of Texas, Austin*
- ◇ *Considering Change: Reformatting Film, Photographs, and Electronic Records at the New Mexico State Archives*
- ◇ *Alliance for Response*
- ◇ *Going Digital: Techno Tales from the Conservation Bench*
- ◇ *Managing the Records Elephant: NARA's Strategic Approaches to Electronic Records*
- ◇ *Terrorists, Patriots, and Archivists: 9/11/01-5/28/04*
- ◇ Lunch speaker, Dora Guerra, *The Story of the San Antonio River Walk*
- ◇ Closing Plenary Session, Shelby Sanett, *Preserving Electronic Records*

Other events: Slotto, walking tours, newcomers breakfast, SSA business meeting and breakfast, Ghost Tour
For information — <http://southwestarchivists.org/HTML/Meeting.htm>